



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Agenda

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager (860)441-6630

Town Council Committee of the Whole

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Bruce S. Flax, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, and Paulann H. Sheets

Tuesday, May 26, 2009

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. Calendar and Communications**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**

2009-0122 Approval of Minutes (Committee of the Whole)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Committee of the Whole meeting of April 28, 2009 are hereby accepted and approved.

Legislative History

5/12/2009 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski to adopt. Councilor Sheets suggested a number of revisions to the minutes. The consensus of the Council was to have staff review the videotape of the meeting to clarify the statements made by Councilor Sheets. The motion and second were withdrawn, and consideration of the minutes was tabled to the next meeting.

Councilor Brown-Tracy arrived at 6:10 p.m.

2009-0138 Approval of Minutes (Committee of the Whole)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Committee of the Whole meeting of May 12, 2009 are hereby accepted and approved.

- 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**

2009-0135 Establishment of Tax Rate for General Fund (FYE 10)

2009-0136 Establishment of Tax Rate for Mumford Cove District Fund (FYE 10)

2009-0137 Establishment of Tax Rate for Groton Sewer District Fund (FYE 10)

2009-0133 Local Option to Suspend Revaluation Phase-In

2009-0007 Labor Negotiations (2009 Standing Referral)
(Potential Executive Session)

2009-0117 Parks and Recreation Program/Service Pricing Contract

2009-0126 Services Shared with Stonington

2009-0124 Ethics Ordinance

2009-0139 Submarine Capital of the World Inc. Request for
Donation

2009-0009 Legislative Policy (2009 Standing Referral)

7. Consideration of Committee Referral Items as per Town Council Referral List
8. OTHER BUSINESS
9. ADJOURNMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Council Committee of the Whole

FROM: Mark R. Oefinger, ^{mas} Town Manager

DATE: May 19, 2009

SUBJECT: Agenda Report for May 26, 2009 Committee of the Whole Meeting

6. NEW BUSINESS

2009-0135 Establishment of Tax Rate for General Fund (FYE 10)

2009-0136 Establishment of Tax Rate for Mumford Cove District Fund (FYE 10)

2009-0137 Establishment of Tax Rate for Groton Sewer District Fund (FYE 10)

On Wednesday, May 20th the RTM finished its review of the proposed FYE 10 Town of Groton Budget. Attachment 1 is a staff referral memo from Sal Pandolfo, Finance Director, concerning the three above noted referrals. Proposed mill rates for the three budgets have been calculated and a reconciliation between the original proposed budget and the final action taken by the RTM is attached. In preparation for setting the three mill rates, staff has undertaken a review of all revenue sources and made adjustments as warranted. As you are aware, the State of Connecticut has not concluded its deliberations on the State Budget, and as a result, it is recommended we continue to use the Governor's proposed budget, which was used in the Town Manager's original proposal.

2009-0133 Local Option to Suspend Revaluation Phase-In

As recently reported, the Legislature has approved a new law regarding a "municipal option" to delay revaluations and suspend a revaluation phase-in; and recently the Governor signed this legislation into law. Attachment 2 is a staff referral memo from Sal Pandolfo, John Philip and Nancy Dytke concerning this "municipal option", including an analysis of the impact such an option (if selected) would have on the grand list; taxpayers; and the fiscal impact it would have on the Town, Sewer District, and Fire Districts/Political Subdivisions. Attached to this referral memo is a copy of the bill No. 997, along with an Office of Legislative (OLR) Research bill analysis.

2009-0007 Labor Negotiations (2009 Standing Referral) (Proposed for Executive Session)

The Town and the Groton Police Union, Local #3428 have reached a tentative agreement for a successor collective bargaining agreement. If approved by the Town Council, the agreement would be effective retroactive to July 1, 2008. The bargaining unit has ratified the proposal agreement. The agreement is referred to the Town Council for action under Connecticut General Statute's section 7-474(b). This item (due to the nature of the subject matter) is noted for potential Executive Session. Town Attorney Duggan, Doug Ackerman and Joyce Sauchuk will be in attendance to review with the Town Council the background and the highlights associated with this tentative agreement. Attachment 3 is a suggested motion to go into executive session that has been provided to us by Attorney Duggan.

2009-0117 Parks and Recreation Program/Service Pricing Contract

This item appeared on the last Committee of the Whole Agenda, but due to the absence of John Silsby it was not discussed. We have recently been advised that John may be out of the office for a couple of more weeks, and as a result it is proposed that this item be discussed in his absence. Jerry Lokken from Parks and Recreation will be in attendance.

The Town is currently in the process of having a Town-wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan prepared, along with a Master Plan for Sutton Park. Attachment 4 is notification from Parks and Recreation of two upcoming public information meetings that will be held on May 27th and 28th. During the review of some of the preliminary results of the Town-wide master plan, and as a result of extensive discussions that took place at staff level in preparing the Parks and Recreation FYE 2010 proposed budget, significant changes are proposed to be made to the Town's Parks and Recreation special revenue fund. This fund has been in existence for approximately six years and has seen a number of changes as we have become more accustomed to using this funding mechanism to support Parks and Recreation programming activities. The establishment of the fund and the changes that have been made can best be described as home-grown and incremental. While the program has been very successful and has allowed the department to continue to grow Parks and Recreation programming opportunities, it is felt that some outside assistance, review, and recommendation is warranted so as to ensure the continued health of the fund. Town staff has reviewed with our consultants the establishment of the fund and the incremental changes that have been made to it over time. The consultant has concurred that this is how more and more communities are addressing their programming needs and upon further discussion, Town staff has asked the consultant to put together a proposal that would lead to the review and modification of the Town's special revenue program. Attachment 5 is a staff referral memo from John Silsby, Director of Parks and Recreation, concerning this initiative, along with a copy of the proposal that has been provided by Norris Design, which is the consultant working on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This specific investigation/work item was not originally contemplated as part of the Town's Parks and Recreation Master Plan update or the Sutton Park Master Plan, and therefore it is being forwarded to the Town Council for input and approval.

2009-0126 Services Shared with Stonington

During the RTM Budget sessions on May 4th and May 6th a considerable amount of time was spent discussing the Mystic & Noank Library and the inequity of funding and contributions that are made by Groton and Stonington. This discussion also touched upon the inequities associated with the contributions made by the two communities to support the pump-out boat program and Mystic River Ambulance. Attachment 6 is a staff referral memo from Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk, concerning this referral from the RTM along with the minutes of the May 4th and May 6th RTM budget meetings concerning their discussion of this item. The RTM has requested that the Town Council establish a taskforce on shared services with Stonington and that the committee report back to the Town Council and RTM by December 1, 2009.

2009-0124 Ethics Ordinance

This item was discussed at the last Committee of the Whole meeting, and the Town Council requested staff to provide an update on the status of State Legislative initiatives concerning this item.

2009-0139 Submarine Capital of the World Inc. Request for Donation

Attachment 7 is an e-mail request from Bud Fay concerning a \$350.00 contribution to the Submarine Capital of the World Inc. If the Town Council authorizes funding for this \$350.00 request, it is recommended that the funds be taken from the Navy/Military Relations line in the Town Manager's budget.

2009-0009 Legislative Policy (2009 Standing Referral)

Attachment 8 contains 2 reports from CCM concerning the status of bills that are currently pending before either the House of Representatives or the Senate affecting cities and towns. The purpose of having this item on the agenda is to allow staff the opportunity to provide the Town Council with a brief report as to the status of various legislative items in Hartford. As you are aware, the regular session of the Legislature will be drawing to a close shortly and in all likelihood a special session will need to be called in order to finalize the State Budget. The latest indications from the Governor indicate that a budget would not in all likelihood be approved until July or later, which means municipalities throughout the State will need to adopt their respective FYE 2010 budgets without firm State aid numbers being available.

MRO:sw